

To all persons who did not apply for the 21st Century Scholars program in 7th or 8th grade because of being informed of requirements concerning citizenship status of your parents

The State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana (SSACI), which administers the 21st Century Scholars program, was sued in federal court in Indianapolis in a case called *E.C. v. Obergfell*. The suit claimed that had a policy or practice of informing 21st Century Scholars or persons seeking to become 21st Century Scholars that the students' parents or guardians had to be American citizens or legal aliens and/or had to have Social Security Numbers (SSN). The case is a class action, meaning that it is brought on behalf of:

all past, present, and future Indiana students aged 20 or less on March 2, 2006, either citizens or lawful aliens, who were, are, or will be eligible to apply to become a Twenty-first Century Scholar and/or receive a Twenty-first Century Scholar award and who were found ineligible or will be found ineligible, or who did not apply or will not apply, to become a Scholar and/or receive an award because their parents or legal guardians were not, are not, or will not be American citizens or lawful aliens.

While the SSACI has not conceded the merit of the plaintiffs' claim, as part of a settlement in the case it has changed its Application form to make it clear that a student is not prohibited from becoming a 21st Century Scholar or from receiving a scholarship because his or her parents are not citizens, lawful aliens, or do not have a Social Security Number.

If you:

- were 20 years of age or younger as of March 2, 2006
- can attest that you did not apply for the 21st Century Scholars program when you were in the 7th or 8th grade because (1) you were informed that your parents or legal guardians had to be United States citizens or legal aliens and/or had to have a Social Security Number, and (2) your parents or guardians were not United States citizens or legal aliens at that time

you can submit a [Special Enrollment Application Form](#) to become a 21st Century Scholar. If SSACI finds that you would have been eligible in your 7th or 8th grade year but for your failure to apply then, you will be found eligible. This means that if you meet all the requirements and fill out the Special Affirmation Form that in substance mirrors what all 21st Century Scholars must complete in their senior years, you will be eligible for 21st Century Scholarship Program consideration. If you have already graduated from high school you can still apply to become a 21st Century Scholar now and, if the SSACI finds that you were eligible in your 7th or 8th grade year but for your failure to apply then, you will be awarded a 21st Century Scholar grant if you meet all the requirements for a grant that all students must meet. However, you will not be reimbursed for post high school tuition or expenses that have already been incurred.

This [Special Enrollment Application Form](#) must be filled out by March 10, 2007.

You can get a [Special Enrollment Application Form](#) by:

1. Visiting SSACI's Web address especially established for this purpose at:
<http://www.in.gov/ssaci/programs/21st/SpecialEnrollmentApplication12-06.pdf>
2. Emailing SSACI at: 21special@ssaci.in.gov
3. Writing SSACI at: SSACI, Special Enrollment Request, 150 W. Market Street, Suite 500, 46202. If you write you must include the student's full name, address and the following text: "Special Enrollment Form Request".
4. Calling SSACI at: 317-233-2100 or 1-888-528-4719
5. Contacting one of the 21st Century Scholars Support Sites at:
<http://www.in.gov/ssaci/programs/21st/pdf/sites.pdf>
6. Contacting your high school guidance counselor

If you have any questions about this matter you may contact your high school guidance office or:

<p>The attorney for the Class:</p> <p>Kenneth J. Falk ACLU of Indiana 1031 E. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46202 317/635-4059 ext. 229 fax: 317/635-4105 e-mail: kfalk@aclu-in.org</p>	<p>21st Century Scholar's Director:</p> <p>Seana Murphy SSACI 150 W. Market Street, Suite 500 317-233-2100 e-mail: 21special@ssaci.in.gov</p>
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